

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to purify autoantibodies from therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin preparations (IVIg) using affinity chromatography on a ligand bound to a solid support.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the autoantibodies are selected for reactivity with soluble proteins of human serum.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand used for affinity chromatography is composed of a mixture of proteins present in human serum other than IgG.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand used for affinity chromatography is composed of purified individual serum proteins.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand used for affinity chromatography is composed of animal proteins or other molecules which can be recognized by the autoantibodies.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the purified individual serum proteins comprises ferritin.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the solid support used for affinity chromatography is Sepharose or an equivalent thereof.
8. The method of claim 1, which further comprises a step of recovering non-autoreactive antibodies for further processing in a flow-through fraction of the affinity chromatography column.
9. Autoantibodies isolated from therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin preparations (IVIg), which comprises substantially purified autoantibodies capable of forming autoimmune complexes in human serum.
10. The autoantibodies of claim 9, wherein the autoimmune complexes are capable of binding to and activating complement in human serum.

11. The use of autoantibodies of claim 10 for the preparation of a medicament in the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders.

12. A method for the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders in a patient, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of autoantibodies of claim 10 to said patient.

13. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders in a patient, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of autoantibodies of claim 10 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. An autoantibodie-free therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) preparation, which is substantially free of autoantibodies.

15. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of immunodeficiency in a patient, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of an autoantibodies-free therapeutic intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) of claim 14.

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, which further comprises a protein.

17. The use of autoantibodies-free IVIg of claim 14 for the preparation of a medicament in the treatment of immunodeficiency.

18. A method for the treatment of immunodeficiency in a patient, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of an autoantibodies-free IVIg of claim 14 to said patient.